

A FIGHT FOR LA THRON



PRINCE ADOLPHUS

German royal families, and as the Crown Prince is to take a German bride, some of the newspapers suggest that the empire is being cemented by the Hohenzollerns of the ruling houses of other states. The German newspapers, for the most part, despite their dread of the Emperor's might and the danger of being shut over night for insulting his imperial Majesty, have given William strongly and made much fun over the Lippe-Detmold controversy, heading their dispatches as though from a war zone; but at Detmold public meetings gravely discuss what is called the assault on the constitutional rights of the principality, and announce a determination not to let the Prussian King or Bundesrath impair their sovereign rights.

Will the Reichstag Assemble?

The appeal to the Reichstag. If made by Prince Adolphus, while spectacular and romantic, going back as it does into the kingly rights of the families which have ruled Europe for five or six hundred years, is not a hopeful proposition from an imperial standpoint.

In the first place, this imperial court of justice is composed entirely of petty kings and princes, each of whom is personally eternally on the outlook to keep the Emperor from treading on his own royal toes. So that an attempt on the part of the Emperor to jostle one of their own number will receive scant support.

King George of Saxony, who presided over this court of German kings in 1896, has, to the relief of his subjects, departed this life. Who would take his place in case the Reichstag was reassembled by the Emperor was problematical. Leopold of Bavaria would fill the bill with dignity, as he and the Emperor avoid each other as much as possible, but as it would not suit the Berlin end of the controversy.

However, it is to be hoped that the world in general will not be deterred from reading about the romantic and aristocratic functions of this confederacy of kings, and if they are finally called together the moving picture man and the American tourist abroad might be expected to flock by the thousands to the seat of their deliberations.

Japan's Work In Korea.

Much attention is at present directed in the Far East to the Korean problem. The question may be said to have occupied a place in the minds of Japanese statesmen—and of Japanese publicists during the past 20 years, but, as is often the case, it was recently dragged into sudden prominence by a fortuitous incident.

Korea is in the happy position of being an exception to the economic law that population presses upon the limits of sustenance. There is no other pressure in the peninsula empire. Hundreds of thousands of acres of land lie fallow, which, without much difficulty, might be made bread-producing. The contrast between Korea and Japan in that respect forcibly illustrates the effects of their different administrative systems. In the one country, industry finds every encouragement, in the other every deterrent.

Certainly, even in Japan, the moors and forests held by the state or by the throne are one day to be a much more valuable asset than they are now, but so far as land accessible to private enterprise is concerned agriculture has appropriated every spot within reach. In Korea, on the contrary, there has been during the past two decades a steady decline in the already restricted foodstuff producing area, and while the Japanese are constantly confronted by the danger of not being able to grow rice enough for their daily needs, they witness within their neighbor's boundaries the tantalizing spectacle of large tracts of land capable of cultivation neglected and falling into still greater neglect.

Curious Facts About India.

To be a beggar in India is to be a member of an officially recognized profession, for in a volume of statistics relating to the Indian Empire from 1882-1894 it is stated that the number of nonreligious beggars is 2,633,115, of whom 1,522,479 are males. Another curious item in this remarkable volume, which reduces the country, its people, its trades and everything connected with it to tables and figures, is that in 1902 25,109 criminals were sentenced to be whipped. Over 24,000 persons are annually killed by wild animals and snakes, the larger portion being the victims of the snakes, who, to be exact, were 23,168.

One-third of the sum necessary for the construction of the Ames J. Cummings Memorial Library, to house the books donated to the national home of the International Typographical Union, at Colorado Springs, Col., by the widow of former Congressman Cummings, has been secured by the printers of the United States. The total value of the property held by the printers' home at Colorado Springs now amounts to \$27,177.48.

PRINCESS VICTORIA, EMPRESS WILLIAM'S SISTER

No more interesting game could be possible to play or watch than that which is now engaging Emperor William of Germany and his brother-in-law, Prince Adolphus of Schaumburg-Lippe, on the one hand and Count Leopold Lippe-Biesterfeld, backed by the people of Lippe-Detmold, on the other.

The point involved is largely technical and duly aristocratic. Count Leopold, who has for a wife the Princess Marie of Hesse, curiously enough had for his great-grandmother that exceedingly charming German woman, Modeste Von Urnith, who, while connected with the very highest aristocracy of both Bavaria, Saxony and France, or, in other words, Alsace-Lorraine, came just a trifle short of belonging to that haute noblesse which is composed exclusively of reigning families or of those whose families have reigned.

This latter nobility is called "mediatized." That is to say, the grand noblesse, while not actually engaged in the business of reigning, must have done so at some time. In the latter case, Emperor William and the other chiefs of European aristocracy have consented to recognize the "mediatized" families as equal in rank, although temporarily out of a job in the king business.

Emperor William, as the federal head of the German Confederacy of principalities and kingdoms, has once again attempted to push one of his own relatives into a comfortable berth by treading on the sovereign rights of a petty German kingdom. Lippe-Detmold, which is about one-half the size of the State of Delaware, and contains a population of about 140,000, has decided, however, by the vote of its General Council, that it prefers for its ruler Count Leopold, who will, therefore, succeed his father, Count Ernst. The entire affair is wrapped up with the family connections of Emperor William, as his candidate, Prince Adolphus, is the husband of the Kaiser's favorite sister, the Princess Victoria.

To go back to the beginning, it was nine years ago that Prince Waldemar of Lippe-Detmold died, and owing to the fact that his younger brother, Prince Alexander, was, as he still is, insane, a regency became necessary. Prince Waldemar had in his lifetime nominated as future regent, Prince Adolphus of Schaumburg-Lippe, himself a claimant to the succession of the Lippe-Detmold principality, and brother-in-law of Emperor William by his marriage with Princess Victoria of Prussia. Prince Adolphus accordingly assumed the regency when Prince Waldemar died, in 1896.

In the meantime, however, a protest against this settlement had been entered by the head of the collateral line of Lippe-Biesterfeld, Count Ernst, who claimed both the regency and the ultimate succession. A special court of arbitration, composed of six members of the Supreme Court of the empire, with the late King Albert of Saxony at their head, sat to decide the question; and, dismissing the contention of the rival lines that the Lippe-Biesterfeld claim was vitiated because Count Ernst's grandmother had been a woman of the petite noblesse, it declared him entitled to the ultimate succession.

Prince Adolphus of Schaumburg-Lippe thereupon withdrew from Detmold, proclaiming his regency at an end. Count Ernst of Lippe-Biesterfeld stepped into his place and was welcomed as the "popular" candidate to the dignity, which he occupied until his recent death.

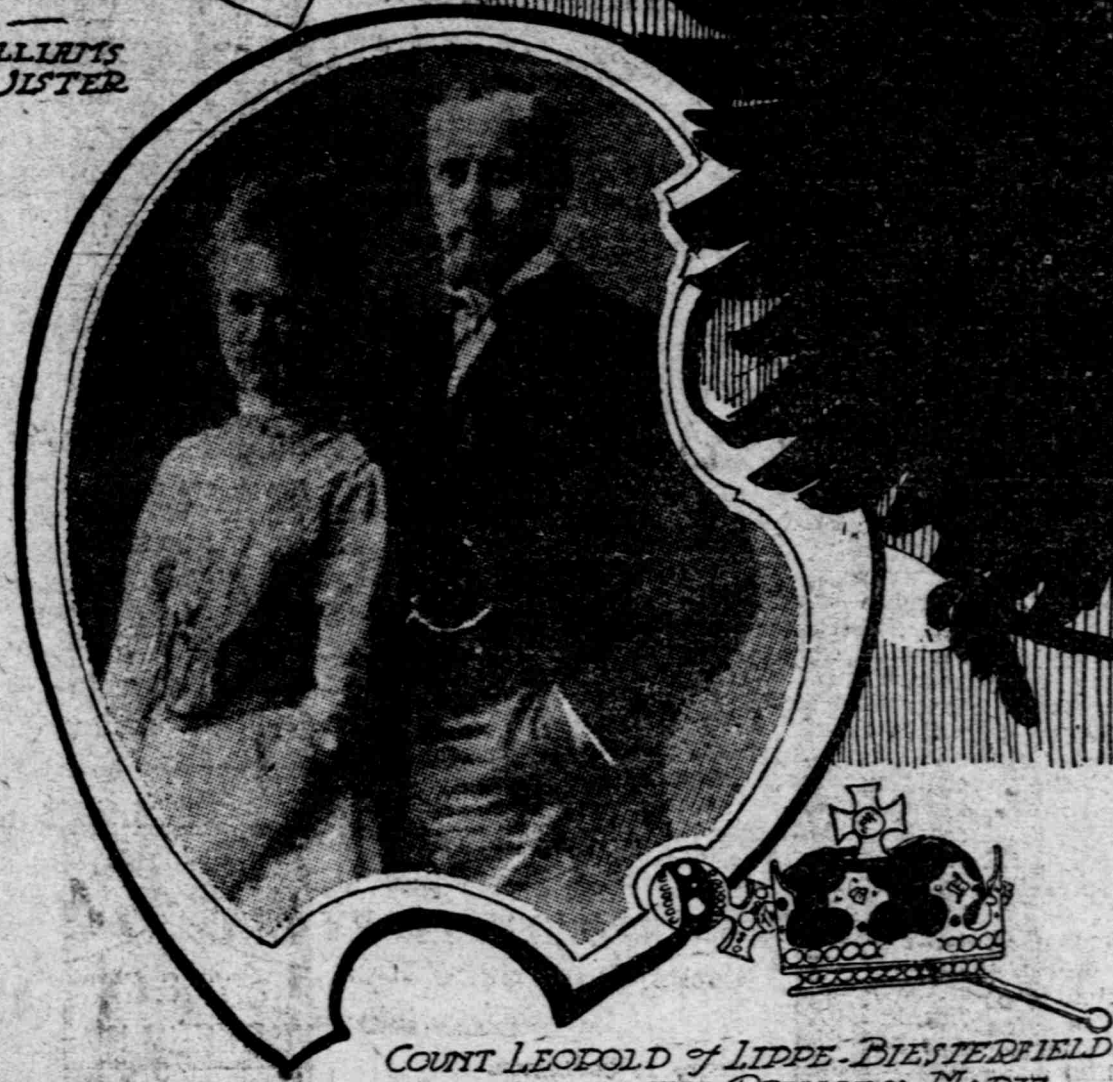
No sooner, however, was Count Ernst's personal claim established than the controversy entered on a fresh phase. The rival lines of Schaumburg-Lippe and Lippe-Biesterfeld challenged the claim of his descendants to succeed, on the ground that his wife, like his ancestors already referred to, was merely of the petite noblesse.

The government of Lippe-Detmold, with the Diet's consent, settled this question, as far as it was concerned, by promulgating a law giving succession to Count Leopold, Count Ernst's eldest son. There was an appeal by the rival lines to the Federal Council of the Empire, and speculation was rife in Germany as to whether this body would, or would not, declare itself competent to deal with the case. In January, 1899, it did so in a guarded judgment, which affirmed that there was then no adequate necessity for actually settling the succession, while adding that its verdict was without prejudice to any future decision on the validity of the Lippe-Detmold law.

Emperor William's Sister Wants This Throne.

The Princess Victoria, who is quite a charming woman, with a marked family resemblance to the Emperor himself, is decidedly ambitious. She is disposed to take as a personal affront the fact that, while the sister of the Emperor himself, she is not a consort of a reigning monarch in a land where sovereigns, counts, princes and dukes are as thick as gooseberries, where an express train in a day's run could easily pass through 15 or 20 separate and distinct states of the first class.

Prince Adolphus, who is a descendant of a younger sovereign than the line represented by the Count Ernst, was, in



COUNT LEOPOLD of LIPPE-BIESTERFELD AND HIS WIFE, THE PRINCESS MARIE



THE PRINCE FIGHT FOR IN THE LIPPE-DETMOLD CONTROVERSY

1895, advocated by the Emperor as Prince Regent of Lippe-Detmold, to succeed Prince Waldemar, who had held the throne of Lippe-Detmold for over 30 years, but while the Emperor is all-powerful in certain matters, such as controlling the army and navy of his empire, he is not all-powerful in matters of the internal ruling of these little kingdoms. To Americans it is easy enough to explain that the whole matter is simply another case of states' rights as opposed to federal interference. The story of just how the Emperor attempted to slide his sister's husband into a temporarily empty throne at Lippe-Detmold, the capital town of the little kingdom, throws a romantic light over

the intriguing and scheming which dominates and very extensively corrupts the imperial circles of Germany. Count Ernst, the eldest son of Count Leopold, had barely signed his last breath in the palace of Detmold before the Emperor had sent Count Lippe-Biesterfeld to Detmold for the purpose of persuading the council, which is the representative body in the little kingdom, to pass by Count Leopold and nominate in his stead Prince Adolphus. Any number of wires were pulled. The Emperor's emissary had a satchel full of jeweled crosses and an unlimited supply of decorations by which to engage the affections of the Detmold Council. In other words, the Emperor attempted at once to create a lobby in this little legislative body and he hoped, rights as opposed to federal interference. The story of just how the Emperor attempted to slide his sister's husband into a temporarily empty throne at Lippe-Detmold, the capital town of the little kingdom, throws a romantic light over

How the Bottom Fell Out.

Unfortunately for the Emperor's schemes in Prince Adolphus' behalf, the people of Lippe-Detmold are very prosperous, self-asserting and a strongly independent set of burghers, and they did not like Prince Adolphus personally; therefore, they rebuffed the attempt of the Emperor. As a matter of fact, however, Count Leopold and his wife, the Princess Marie, were exceedingly popular with the average citizen of Detmold. Young, good-looking and good-natured, they had been living for nine years in the midst of these people and all the time with an eye on the possibility of an empty throne that might be kept in their branch of the family.

Count Leopold, who wears a Vandike beard parted in the center and a graceful mustache, for years made himself useful by making speeches to the good citi-

zens of Detmold. Princess Marie, for her part, like a well-trained aspirant for a petty German kingdom, lived quite a domestic life, visited the sick in the hospitals, headed subscription lists to aid the poverty-stricken Detmolders and is today undoubtedly the most popular individual in the little kingdom.

In fact, while it is also a personal triumph for these two that the will of the War Lord of Germany was thwarted and his favorite sister is still without a throne to pose upon, the real triumph is due to the sturdy burghers of Detmold, who for six days and nights surrounded the council chamber, made long and stupid speeches in the streets, built bonfires and talked about building barricades until the Emperor's agent was compelled to repack into his valise his golden crosses and diamond-studded decorations and slipped across the Lippe-Detmold frontier, some eight miles away.

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With the departure of Count Biesterfeld the bottom fell out of the Emperor's plot to seat Adolphus on the throne. The council, no longer bewildered by the blaze of jeweled presents from the Emperor, yielded to the popular clamor for Count Leopold and declared him elected to succeed his father, Count Ernst. Thus twice inside of a decade Emperor William had attempted to force the sovereign on this little principality, and twice the Emperor's candidate has been forced to keep his coronation robes in camphor and carefully pack away his unworn crown in the spare room in the palace at Potsdam.

But the affair at Detmold and this question of now but meditated descendants having the right to reign, while advanced by the Emperor for his own personal reasons in this case, has now threatened to prove a boomerang coming straight towards no less a personage than

the august son of the Emperor himself, the German Crown Prince, who is shortly to marry the Princess Cecile of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

In fact, German royal circles of all shades and degrees of importance cannot afford to have the Reichstag uphold the Emperor in his position as half a dozen or more important reigning families cannot go back more than four or five generations without running into some ancestors who, while entirely respectable and decided aristocrats, were nevertheless not members of the families mentioned in the early part of this article as having once reigned, but now being without a kingdom.

Other Thrones Are Threatened.

If the fact that Count von Lippe-Biesterfeld's noblesse deprives him of the right to the War Lord of Germany was thwarted and his favorite sister is still without a throne to pose upon, the real triumph is due to the sturdy burghers of Detmold, who for six days and nights surrounded the council chamber, made long and stupid speeches in the streets, built bonfires and talked about building barricades until the Emperor's agent was compelled to repack into his valise his golden crosses and diamond-studded decorations and slipped across the Lippe-Detmold frontier, some eight miles away.

Bavaria is especially anxious regarding the outcome of the Lippe controversy. The question of succession of Prince Ludwig, the son of the present regent, Prince Luitpold, may soon come up, owing to the regent's advanced age. It is also said that the "unequal birth" of Count von Lippe-Biesterfeld affects the house of Saxe-Meiningen, for Count Leopold's sister Adolphe married Prince Friedrich of Saxe-Meiningen.

The family now reigning which would be the nearest touch by any further attempt on the part of the Emperor to drive Count Leopold from his kingdom would be that which now rules in Saxe-Meiningen, as Modeste was the great-grandmother of the children of Prince Friedrich, her presumptive of Saxe-Meiningen, who married Adolphe, Count Leopold's sister. Friedrich's elder brother, Bernhard, who has no son, married the Emperor's sister, Charlotte. As three of the Emperor's sisters married members of



THE GERMAN CROWN PRINCE AND DUCHESS CECILIE WHOM HE IS ENGAGED TO MARRY